

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
22nd February 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

What is the Council doing to stand up for private renters and crack down on rogue landlords?

Response

The council makes full use of its powers to ensure private sector tenants are adequately protected against hazards within the private rented sector. Details of how housing related enforcement and complaints are resolved is provided within the attached leaflet.

'Rogue' landlords are finding it increasingly difficult to operate in Wales as a result of the introduction of Rent Smart Wales, a national private sector landlord registration and licensing scheme. Tenants are now able to check if a property is appropriately registered via the following link: <https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/en/check-register/>

Free advice for both landlord and tenant is available from the resource library at Rent Smart Wales and may be accessed via the following link: <https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/en/resource-library/>

In light of the introduction of a national private sector landlord registration and licensing scheme, Powys has developed an approved landlord training course to facilitate local training and promote compliance. Powys, one of only two authorities in Wales to have achieved accreditation, has subsequently trained more than 500 local landlords, at various locations throughout the county, over the past 20 months.

Private Sector Housing also actively raise service requests with Rent Smart Wales and issue letters to local non-compliant landlords. Rent Smart Wales then take on any further action in terms of non-compliance through use of fixed penalty notices and if necessary prosecution, in accordance with the universally adopted national memorandum of understanding.